

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action. Claims 17, 18 and 22 have been canceled. Claims 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 23 – 26 have previously been cancelled. Claims 1 – 9, 13, 14, 19 and 20 remain pending in this application.

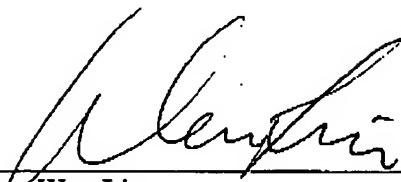
Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the present application, in particular claims 1 – 9, 13, 14, 19 and 20. While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejections of the other claims, in the interest of furthering this application to allowance without further delays, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims, and rewritten dependent claims 19 and 20 as independent claims, including all the limitations of their intervening claims. Accordingly, all claims dependent from such independent claims are also patentable.

Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to prosecute the subject matter covered by the canceled claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,



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